



THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA
COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS/OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS
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INFORMATION FOR UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS
FEBRUARY 2007 GENERAL BAR EXAMINATION AND ATTORNEYS' EXAMINATION

GRADE INFORMATION

If you took the General Bar Examination, your result letter includes your raw Multistate Bar Examination (MBE) subscores, your total raw (number of items correct) and scaled MBE scores, your raw scores on the eight parts of the written test, your total raw and scaled written scores, and your total scaled score.

The General Bar Examination consists of two sections: the written section including six essays and two Performance Tests (PT), and the 200-item MBE. An applicant can earn up to 100 raw points on each of six essays and up to 200 raw points on each PT. Scaled MBE scores are reported on a 2000-point scale. Scores on the written portion of the exam are scaled to the MBE and reported on a 2000-point scale. The written section is 65% of the total, the MBE is 35% of the total.

To pass the examination an applicant must have a total scaled score of 1440 out of a 2000 possible points.

If you took the Attorneys' Examination, your letter includes your raw scores on the eight parts of the written test, your total raw score, and your total scaled score.

The Attorneys' Examination consists of the six essays and two PTs from the General Bar Examination. An applicant can earn up to 100 raw points on each essay and up to 200 raw points on each PT.

Scaling Information

The Committee utilizes a grading procedure designed to ensure the difficulty of passing the examination remains unchanged from one administration of the examination to another. The statistical technique, called scaling, converts scores on the written portion (essay questions and PT's) to the same scale of measurement as the MBE. MBE raw scores are converted to scale scores to adjust the results for possible differences in average question difficulty across different administrations of the examination. As a result of this step, a given MBE scale score indicates the same level of proficiency regardless of the administration of the examination on which it was earned. Converting the total written raw scores to the same scale of measurement as the MBE adjusts for possible differences in average question difficulty and Grader performance across different administrations of the examination.

MBE scores are reported on a scale ranging from 0 to 2000 points. On the written section of the examination, applicants are graded initially on a basis of 1000 possible points: 100 points for each of the six essay questions and 200 points for each of the two performance tests. The scores obtained on the written section of the examination are then translated to the 2000-point MBE scale. An applicant's total score is the scale MBE score (on the 2000-point scale) multiplied by .35 plus the converted score on the written section multiplied by .65. Scaling ensures the two portions of the examination carry the relative weights assigned to them: written (65%) and MBE (35%).

Attorney applicants who took the Attorneys' Examination also have their scores on the written section placed on the same scale of measurement as general applicants, but as they are exempt from the MBE, their pass/fail status is based solely on the written section.

Phased Grading

All written answers submitted by applicants are read at least once before pass/fail decisions are made, including the answers of applicants who do not complete the examination in its entirety. Based on the results of studies relative to reliability, scores have been established for passing and failing after one reading of the examination. For those applicants whose scores after the first read (Phase I) are near the required passing score, all answer books are read a second time, and the scores of the first and second readings are averaged. The total averaged score after two readings is then used to make a second set of pass/fail decisions, providing there are no grading discrepancies of more than 10 raw points between first and second read grades on any question (Phase II). Any answers with grading discrepancies more than 10 raw points between first and second read grades are read a third time before making the third set of pass/fail decisions.

To pass the examination in the first phase of grading an applicant must have a total scale score (after one reading) of at least 1440 out of 2000 possible points. Those with total scale scores after one reading below 1390 fail the examination. If the applicant's total scale score is at least 1390 but less than 1440 after one reading, all of the applicant's answers are read a second time by a different set of graders. If the applicant's averaged total scale score after two readings is 1440 or higher, the applicant passes the examination. Applicants with no grading discrepancies of more than 10 raw points between first and second read grades on any question with averaged total scale scores of less than 1440 fail the examination. Applicants with grading discrepancies more than 10 raw points between first and second read grades on any question whose averaged total scale score is less than 1440 will have those answers referred to the supervising member of the grading team for that particular question for resolution of the discrepancy (Phase III). The supervising member will assign a resolution grade to the answer and the resolution grade will replace the averaged grade for that question. If the applicant's total scale score after resolution grading is 1440 or higher, that applicant passes the examination. If the applicant's total scale score after resolution grading is less than 1440, the applicant fails the examination.

These procedures are designed to make grading decisions consistent and fair. Consequently, the Committee will not entertain petitions for reconsideration based upon rounded score scenarios. Instead, it is the different phases of grading as above described that provides an automatic review of those examinations close to the pass line.

The item-response theory (IRT) equating method is the statistical methodology used to equate new forms of the Multistate Bar Examination (MBE) to previous forms of this examination.

IRT methods do not generate or use linear equations for equating. Instead, a table for converting raw scores to scaled scores is provided to transform raw scores (the number of questions answered correctly) to scaled scores. Additional information regarding the equating of the MBE and the item-response theory method can be found at www.ncbex.org.


To confirm your MBE scaled Score:

Use the table provided to find the MBE scaled score that corresponds to your MBE raw score. Because California reports MBE scaled scores on a 2000-point scale, multiply the MBE scaled score in this table by 10.

MBE CONVERSION TABLE

0	42.0	20	57.7	40	73.3	60	88.3	80	103.9	100	121.1	120	139.3	140	157.4	160	174.9	180	192.1
1	42.8	21	58.4	41	74.1	61	89.1	81	104.8	101	122.0	121	140.2	141	158.3	161	175.7	181	192.9
2	43.6	22	59.2	42	74.8	62	89.8	82	105.6	102	122.9	122	141.1	142	159.2	162	176.6	182	193.7
3	44.4	23	60.0	43	75.6	63	90.6	83	106.4	103	123.8	123	142.0	143	160.1	163	177.4	183	194.5
4	45.2	24	60.8	44	76.4	64	91.4	84	107.2	104	124.7	124	142.9	144	160.9	164	178.3	184	195.2
5	45.9	25	61.6	45	77.2	65	92.1	85	108.1	105	125.6	125	143.8	145	161.8	165	179.1	185	195.9
6	46.7	26	62.3	46	78.0	66	92.9	86	108.9	106	126.5	126	144.7	146	162.7	166	180.0	186	196.6
7	47.5	27	63.1	47	78.7	67	93.7	87	109.8	107	127.4	127	145.7	147	163.6	167	180.9	187	197.3
8	48.3	28	63.9	48	79.5	68	94.4	88	110.6	108	128.3	128	146.6	148	164.5	168	181.7	188	198.0
9	49.1	29	64.7	49	80.3	69	95.2	89	111.5	109	129.2	129	147.5	149	165.4	169	182.6	189	198.7
10	49.8	30	65.5	50	81.0	70	96.0	90	112.3	110	130.1	130	148.4	150	166.2	170	183.4	190	199.3
11	50.6	31	66.2	51	81.7	71	96.7	91	113.2	111	131.1	131	149.3	151	167.1	171	184.3		
12	51.4	32	67.0	52	82.4	72	97.5	92	114.1	112	132.0	132	150.2	152	168.0	172	185.2		
13	52.2	33	67.8	53	83.1	73	98.3	93	114.9	113	132.9	133	151.1	153	168.8	173	186.0		
14	53.0	34	68.6	54	83.8	74	99.1	94	115.8	114	133.8	134	152.0	154	169.7	174	186.9		
15	53.8	35	69.4	55	84.5	75	99.9	95	116.7	115	134.7	135	152.9	155	170.6	175	187.8		
16	54.5	36	70.1	56	85.3	76	100.7	96	117.6	116	135.6	136	153.8	156	171.4	176	188.7		
17	55.3	37	70.9	57	86.0	77	101.5	97	118.5	117	136.5	137	154.7	157	172.3	177	189.5		
18	56.1	38	71.7	58	86.8	78	102.3	98	119.3	118	137.4	138	155.6	158	173.2	178	190.4		
19	56.9	39	72.5	59	87.5	79	103.1	99	120.2	119	138.4	139	156.5	159	174.0	179	191.2		

 - Raw Score

 - Scaled Score

To confirm your written scaled score:

Double each raw PT score. Add the resulting value to the sum of your six raw essay scores. The total is your written raw score. Insert this value into the following formula:

$$\text{Scaled written score} = (\text{Raw written score} \times 3.0837) - 493.2616$$

To confirm your total scaled score:

If you took the General Bar Examination: Multiply your scaled MBE score by .35. Multiply your scaled written score by .65. The sum of these two products is your total scaled score on the examination.

If you took the Attorneys' Examination: Your total scaled score is equal to your written scaled score.

FEBRUARY 2007 ESSAY AND PERFORMANCE TEST SUBJECT COVERAGE

<u>Question #</u>	<u>Subject</u>		<u>Tasks</u>
1.	Real Property	PT-A	Points and authorities in opposition to a motion for a preliminary injunction re Attorney-Client communications
2.	Corporations/Professional Responsibility		
3.	Criminal Law Procedure	PT-B	Objective memorandum analyzing non-competition & stock option clauses in an employment contract
4.	Wills and Succession		
5.	Constitutional Law		
6.	Evidence		

The above indicates the fields of law of the main problems in each question. The questions, however, often contain points in other fields, too. The questions are not labeled in the examination itself.

PERCENTILE EQUIVALENTS

An assessment of the performance of February 2007 examinees will be available shortly after results are released by accessing the State Bar's Home Page at www.calbar.ca.gov/admissions or upon request from the State Bar's Office of Admissions.

RECONSIDERATION

The Committee believes that its grading and administrative systems afford each applicant a full and fair opportunity to take the examination and a fair and careful consideration of all his or her examination answers on the bar examination and that no useful purpose would be served by further consideration by the Committee.

For this reason, the Committee will entertain requests for reconsideration only when an applicant establishes that one of the following resulted in failure or prevented the examination from being properly graded:

1. an arithmetical error in the calculation of the total written score from the final grades assigned to the written questions or in the calculation of the total MBE score; or
2. a clerical error.

The Committee will not extend reconsideration based on challenges to its grading system or the judgments of its professional graders.

INSPECTION OF EXAMINATION PAPERS IS NO LONGER PERMITTED **Effective with the February 2007 administration of the examination**

Applicants who are unsuccessful on the California Bar Examination will have their essays and Performance Test answers mailed to the address on file approximately four to six weeks following the release of results. Copies of examination answers materials will no longer be available.

Also effective with the February 2007 California Bar Examination, the Multistate Bar Examination (MBE) answer keys will no longer be provided by the National Conference of Bar Examiners after results have been released. As a result, applicants will not be able to make appointments to compare their MBE answer sheets with the MBE answer keys.

PRACTICAL TRAINING OF LAW STUDENTS — Termination of Certification

Certification under the *Rules Governing the Practical Training of Law Students* is terminated when an applicant is unsuccessful on or fails to take the first General Bar Examination for which he/she is eligible.

TRANSFER OF MBE SCORES TO OTHER JURISDICTIONS

The National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) will transfer your MBE score to admitting authorities in other jurisdictions. A form for facilitating the transfer can be found online through the National Conference of Bar Examiners' Website at www.ncbex.org/tests/mbe/transfer.htm. In accordance with the *Rules*, passing applicants do not have access to their scores from the examination and they will be advised only whether their MBE score meets another jurisdiction's minimum requirement.

BAR EXAMINATION STUDY AIDS

The Committee has received numerous requests to provide materials that might be of assistance to applicants in determining what the Committee desires in answers to bar examination questions. In response, the Committee produces "Selected Answers", which are actual examination answers from a particular administration of the examination that were considered passing. Essay questions, performance tests and Selected Answers for the past several administrations of the California Bar Examination are available free of charge on the Admissions' portion of the State Bar of California's Website at www.calbar.ca.gov/admissions. Selected Answers from the February 2007 administration are expected to be available online by July 1, 2007.

A limited supply of booklets with the Selected Answers from the July 2005, February 2006, July 2006 and in

July, the February 2007 administrations of the examination are available upon written request and payment of the required amount(s) as follows:

Essay Questions and Selected Answers – \$5.00

Performance Questions and Selected Answers – \$8.00

If materials will be sent to a jurisdiction outside of the United States, include an additional \$5.00 for postage. All sales are final.

An MBE study aid called the Multistate Bar Examination - Annotated Preview (MBE-AP) is available through the National Conference of Bar Examiners. The MBE-AP is designed to be delivered online. Additional information is available through the National Conference of Bar Examiners Web site at www.ncbex.org.

APPLICATION TO TAKE THE JULY 2007 CALIFORNIA BAR EXAMINATION

Application forms, instructions and information to take the July 2007 California Bar Examination are not included with the unsuccessful packets, but are available through the State Bar's Website at www.calbar.ca.gov/admissions. The timely filing deadline for unsuccessful applicants from the February 2007 California Bar Examination is June 12, 2007. Applications may be filed after that date, but a late fee is required. The final filing deadline for the July 2007 examination is June 15, 2007.